




Speech By
Craig Crawford

MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER

Record of Proceedings, 16 August 2016

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

 **Mr CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (4.48 pm): The Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee welcomed me to their committee earlier this year after I transferred from the Finance and Administration Committee, and I want to take this opportunity to thank the chair, members and secretariat for welcoming me to their fold.

The estimates hearing of our committee, held on 20 July, considered the portfolio areas of the Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade and Investment; the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines; and the Minister for Housing and Public Works. As the member for Keppel said, it was quite a long day. The committee sat until nine o'clock at night. The committee did recommend that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2016 for the areas of the committee's responsibility, be agreed to by the House without amendment.

In relation to the areas of responsibility of the Deputy Premier, issues that were discussed related to Cross River Rail, the State Infrastructure Fund, the Capital Works Program, TIQ assistance to the dairy industry, the State Infrastructure Plan, Economic Development Queensland, Building Queensland, Queensland as a study destination, and planning within Queensland. I will focus on two matters that affect my patch in Far North Queensland. The first is the TIQ offices in Singapore and Chengdu in China. The markets of China and all of Asia are massive for Cairns and Tropical North Queensland, not only in tourism but also in export opportunities across-the-board. I certainly welcome anything we can do in that space to connect Tropical North Queensland with Asia. I welcome that new office.

The second matter is the Significant Regional Infrastructure Projects Program and the \$180 million for regional Queensland. This is a significant boost for regional Queensland. I am very proud to have some of that money coming into my electorate of Barron River, to the tune of around \$39 million. Having \$39 million spent on a couple of projects in your patch goes a long way towards generating confidence, jobs and growth and resolves some issues. The projects in my patch are the Bill Fulton Bridge, which has a total construction cost of \$34 million, to address a blockage on the western arterial at Cairns; and a \$5 million fire station to be constructed at Smithfield. I thank the Deputy Premier and her departments for that. From conversations I have had with local departmental officers I can say that these projects are ready to go. Tender documents are being drawn up at the moment. I would love to see some boots on the ground and some high-vis vests in both of those spots if not before Christmas then certainly shortly after.

Some of the things discussed with the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources were the Townsville stadium, the North Stradbroke Island transition strategy—I was a member of the Finance and Administration Committee when it visited North Stradbroke Island, so I am well aware of that issue—the Carmichael rail and coal project, biofuels, renewable energy projects—and the list goes on. I was quite satisfied with the minister and with his departmental officers.

Finally, very late at night we heard from the Minister for Housing and Public Works, who I think conducted himself quite well, especially as it was his first hit-out. I said to him later that night that I gave him 'best on ground' for that day. He earned a gold star. The big project he rolled out that day was the Logan Renewal Initiative. I am sure he wants to talk about that himself.

In closing, I thank the committee, the staff and the ministers. I did read the statement of reservation from the opposition. I do not agree with it.